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**COMMITTEES**

Member
Elementary and Secondary Education
Utilities
Joint Committee on Missouri's Promise

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Mike Cierpiot
Assistant Majority Floor Leader
Missouri House of Representatives

Received & Inspected

AUG 25 2014

FCC Mail Room

RE : MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler

As a Representative of the 30th District in the Kansas City Metropolitan area of Missouri, I currently represent two distinct service areas of cable/broadband. Time Warner Cable and Comcast offer service in neighboring segments of my community, which creates a dichotomy not only in home entertainment accessibility but in community investment as well. Some of my residents have access to Comcast's high-speed internet, quicker download speeds, diverse programming, community Wi-Fi hotspots and discounted Internet and computer offerings, but many don't. It is time that everyone gets the same access, not just across my district in Kansas City, but across the country. In that vein, I strongly encourage the FCC to approve the proposed Comcast/Time Warner Cable ("TWC") transaction. My family home is in a Comcast service area, so my family and neighbors have already been exposed to all of the things that Comcast has to offer. A favorite, the TV Everywhere option, offers hundreds of thousands of additional streaming options plus more than 50 live TV channels. This is one of the many benefits that will be gratefully extended to our TWC neighbors - and at quicker speeds, thanks to Comcast's all-digital network and 25 Mbps downstream speeds.

Besides the tech improvements, the benefits of an expansion of Comcast's community empowerment programs to TWC service areas would be advantageous for the district as a

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whole. Already, Comcast has played a role in improving the lives of young people in our community, and an increased business presence means increased community presence as well. Through partnerships with organizations such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America and their Beyond School Walls program, local school children receive one-on-one mentoring two to four times a month at a Comcast corporate office. This program exposes students to the working world at an early age and gives them a chance to learn firsthand from selected Comcast mentors. Comcast has also recognized promising Missouri high school graduates through their "Leaders and Achievers" scholarship program, which grants scholarships to college-bound seniors in Comcast communities. With the dozens of additional impact programs available through Comcast and NBCUniversal, our community itself will be much better off with the expansion of service and programs.

I am proud to serve my community as a member of the Missouri House's Elementary and Secondary Education Committee, but it also means I recognize obstacles to local education. Through my outreach, I have been continually frustrated by the lack of opportunities available to inner-city youth, particularly the lack of access to computers and high-speed internet that holds them back from competing with students who do have this access. Comcast has been working to combat this issue, and just announced its indefinite extension of its highly regarded Internet Essentials program and \$1 million in grants for dozens of non-profit organizations across the country to create Internet Essentials Learning Zones. Hundreds of Missouri families have already taken advantage of this program, and a Comcast expansion into new markets would open doors for many more students who otherwise would not have access to this program.

All in all, the proposed Comcast/TWC deal would expand access to high-quality broadband services and access. I urge you to approve this transaction so that each of my constituents will have the chance to see what this great company can offer our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Cierpiot".

Rep. Mike Cierpiot

District 30- Jackson County

State of Missouri